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Attorney Docket No.: 5568/1070 PATENT

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Patrick J. Muraca

U.S. Serial No.: 09/779,187

Filed: February 8, 2001

Ref. No.: 5568/1070

Entitled: "Stylet for Use With Tissue
Microarrayer and Molds"

Examiner: Not yet assigned

Group: 1744

Conf. No.: 5622

Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In the Claims

Please **cancel** claims 1-10.

Please **add** claims 11-40

11. (NEW) A stylet for removing tissue or embedding media from a coring needle comprising:

a stylet needle comprising a pushing surface and a connecting end, said pushing surface for pushing tissue or embedding media from said coring needle, said connecting end for connecting to a stylet body;

a stylet body comprising a lumen for receiving at least said connecting end of said stylet needle and for preventing rotation of said stylet needle within said stylet body; and

wherein at least said pushing surface of said stylet needle comprises a material which can maintain a temperature from -20° to 4°C during the process of removing tissue or embedding material from said coring needle.

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12. (NEW) The stylet according to claim 11, wherein the diameter of said stylet needle's pushing surface is greater than 0.6 mm.
13. (NEW) The stylet according to claim 12, wherein said diameter ranges from 0.7 mm to 5 mm.
14. (NEW) The stylet according to claim 11, wherein said diameter is less than 0.6 mm in diameter.
15. (NEW) The stylet according to claim 13, wherein said diameter is at least 2 mm.
16. (NEW) The stylet according to claim 11, for slideably fitting within a coring needle ranging from 0.3 to 2.0 mm in diameter.
17. (NEW) The stylet according to claim 11, wherein said stylet needle comprises steel or plastic.
18. (NEW) The method according to claim 11, wherein said pushing surface of the stylet needle is a non-stick surface.
19. (NEW) The stylet according to claim 13, wherein said non-stick surface is selected from the group consisting of: polypropylene, teflon, nylon, polyethylene, derivatives and combinations thereof.
20. (NEW) The stylet according to claim 11, wherein said stylet body comprises polypropylene or brass.
21. (NEW) The stylet according to claim 11, wherein said stylet body comprises a stylet base and a stylet cap, said stylet cap for receiving at least the connecting end of said stylet, said stylet base for slideably moving along the length of the stylet needle distal to the connecting end.

22. (NEW) The stylet according to claim 11, wherein said stylet needle is enclosed at least partially within a stylet tube.
23. (NEW) The stylet according to claim 17, wherein said stylet tube prevents rotation of the needle within said stylet tube.
24. (NEW) The stylet according to claim 21, wherein said stylet cap and stylet base are separated by a resilient element.
25. (NEW) The stylet, according to claim 24, wherein said resilient element is a spring.
26. (NEW) The stylet according to claim 11, wherein said stylet body comprises an opening for receiving a graspable element.
27. (NEW) The stylet, according to claim 26, wherein said stylet comprises said graspable element inserted partially within said opening.
28. (NEW) The stylet according to claim 11, wherein said stylet body comprises a plastic that withstands low temperature impact forces.
29. (NEW) The stylet according to claim 11, wherein said stylet body comprises mineral reinforced polypropylene.
30. (NEW) The stylet according to claim 11, further comprising a surface for connection with an actuation means for moving the stylet.
31. (NEW) The stylet according to claim 11, further comprising a joining section for coupling to a tissue microarrayer.
32. (NEW) The stylet according to claim 31, wherein said joining section comprises a surface for fitting onto a dowel in a tissue microarrayer, said dowel holding said stylet in a fixed position.

33. (NEW) A mold half for generating the stylet according to claim 11, comprising a mold cavity corresponding in shape to any of: half of the stylet needle, half of the stylet body, and combinations thereof.

34. (NEW) A mold half for generating the stylet according to claim 21, comprising a mold cavity corresponding in shape to any of: half of the stylet needle, half of the stylet base, half of the stylet cap, and combinations thereof.

35. (NEW) A composition comprising two complementary mold halves according to claim 33 for forming one or more components of the stylet, said mold halves aligned and held together by connecting elements.

36. (NEW) A composition comprising two complementary mold halves according to claim 34 for forming one or more components of the stylet, said mold halves aligned and held together by connecting elements.

37. (NEW) The composition according to claim 35, further comprising a mold core to define the inner surface of one or more components of the stylet.

38. (NEW) The composition according to claim 36, further comprising a mold core to define the inner surface of one or more components of the stylet.

39. (NEW) A method for forming a stylet according to claim 11, comprising injection molding one or more of the stylet needle and the stylet body.

40. (NEW) The method according to claim 39, further comprising the step of providing a mold for generating multiple stylet components at a time.

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 11 to 40 are pending. No new matter is introduced by this amendment. Support for the newly added claims may be found throughout the specification and at least at pages 4 to 11, and in the claims as originally filed.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that all claims are allowable as written and respectfully requests early favorable action by the Examiner. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with Applicant's agent would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned agent of record.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 12, 2001

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In the Specification

Please substitute page 3 of the specification with attached replacement page 3. A marked-up version of this page is provided to show the changes made. The amendment is made to indicate two views shown in the drawings previously as a single "Figure 1E" as separate Figures 1E and 1F. Accordingly, no new matter is introduced by this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 21, 2001

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